

July 31, 2002

The Ultratec CapTel phone service is a most useful tool, one I have been waiting for my *entire* life. When I was in the 3rd grade in Howe School for the Deaf in Green Bay, Wisconsin, our teacher informed us that in the near future, our lives would be made much easier by the use of electronics and robotic methods. When she expanded on this subject, I got terribly excited and waited for this “miracle” to occur. The waiting has been 50 years long. (chuckle)

This CapTel service is what I have been begging for, wanting a much more improved version of the closed-captioned services to include all communications. While I won't chew your ear off, I do want to state that, years down the road, CapTel will be a much sought-after device, when we, the older generation, are no longer able to use our hands in order to operate the TDD (teletype device). Obviously, our ears will have already gone to the far beyond and we will be dependent on this service to keep in communication with our loved ones.

Please consider this petition a most important and needed one for all, hearing and non-hearing alike. Thank you for listening.

Sharon Derus

cc: Pam Holmes, UltraTec